

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 RSC-01 /036 R

DRAFTED BY EA:MSTEARNS:FMT

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

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R 222313Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: COUNTERING HANOI'S DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE AGAINST
THE GVN

PERSONAL FOR AMB MARTIN FROM STEARNS

1. NOT SO LONG AGO BOB MCCLOSKEY USED TO DEFLECT PRESS
QUERIES ABOUT THE EXACT NUMBER OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS
IN THE SOUTH BY SAYING "THEY DON'T USE TURNSTILES". EVEN
IF VIETNAMESE "UNDER PRG CONTROL" (WHATEVER THAT PHRASE
MEANS) USED VOTING MACHINES I DOUBT THAT THE COMBINED
WISDOM OF EMBASSY SAIGON AND THE WASHINGTON INTELLIGENCE
GURU'S COULD AGREE ON THE POINT SPREAD. WHETHER THE
PERCENTAGE IS 3 PERCENT OR "ABOUT 5 PERCENT", THE FACTS
SET FORTH BY THE CIRCULAR AIRGRAM ARE CLEAR ENOUGH: THE
PRG IS NOT A GOVERNMENT; IT WAS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A
GOVERNMENT BY THE PARIS ACCORDS; AND IT CONTROLS A NEGLI-
GIBLE FRACTION OF THE VIETNAMESE POPULATION.

2. THE CIRCULAR WENT OUT AS A DEPARTMENT AIRGRAM SHOWING
EA/VN AND THE EMBASSY AS CO-DRAFTERS. IT IS A GOOD
MESSAGE AND WE ARE SENDING YOU THE BACKUP MATERIAL
BY POUCH. EA/VN IS WORKING HARD AND EFFECTIVELY TO SUPPORT
YOU ON EVERYTHING FROM FUNDING LEVELS TO THE LAWS OF WAR.
THIS WAS A REPROACH THE BUREAU DID NOT MERIT. AS A FORMER
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FOOTBALL COACH USED TO SAY OF THE YALE ALUMNI, WE TRY TO
KEEP YOU "SURLY BUT NOT MUTINOUS". I THINK OUR WON/LOST
RECORD IS BETTER THAN YALE'S WAS THAT YEAR. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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